



**UiO** • **Faculty of Medicine**  
University of Oslo

# **Comprehensive interventions in the community for elderly persons with sub acute loss of functional performance**

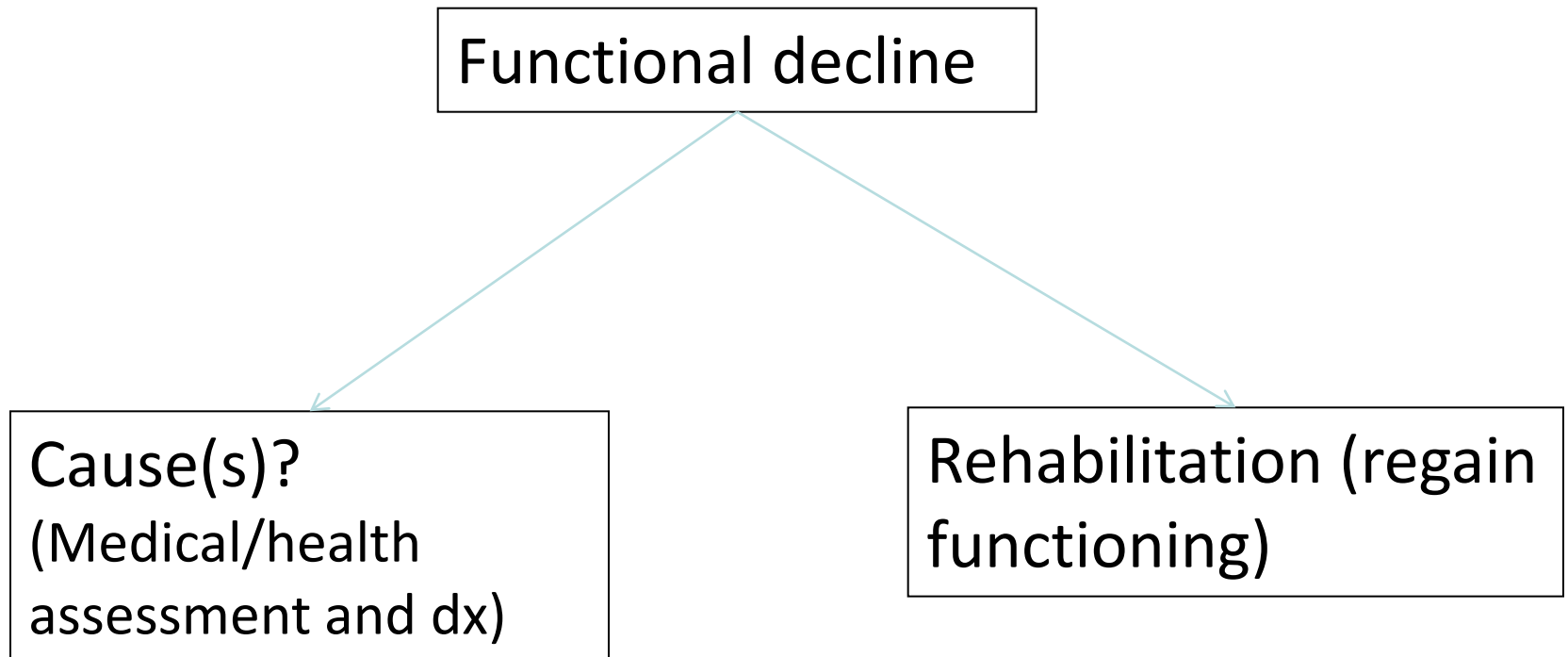


Torgeir Bruun Wyller and Marit Kirkevold

# Participants in research group B

- Leaders
  - Professor Torgeir Bruun Wyller, MD, PhD, University of Oslo (UiO) & Oslo University hospital (OUS)
  - Professor Marit Kirkevold, RN, UiO
- Key members
  - Unni Sveen , PhD, Occupational therapist, senior researcher, OUS and Oslo University college (OUC)
  - Renate Pettersen, MD, PhD, OUS
  - Christina Foss, RN, PhD, UiO
  - Kari Sletnes, MD, PhD, Oslo Municipality
  - Dag Hofoss, Prof, PhD, Social science
  - Jørund Straand, MD, PhD, Prof. General practice
  - Dag Omholt, user representative

# Problem: Subacute Functional decline in elderly at home



# Current situation

- Home care services: Act/provide services based on a priori judgement (“decision about individual entitlements”). Weak/absent response when changes occur, e.g. subacute functional decline
- GPs: Act when patient (or family/nurse etc.) seeks help. Absent/limited proactive interventions
- The hospital sector: Acts when patient is referred or admitted

# Intervention: Planned quality improvement project

- Goal: Improved collaboration between Oslo University Hospital, home care services and GPs in three districts in Oslo municipality
- Intervention entails:
  - Develop a system of effective and efficient collaboration between the partners
  - Education/training of home care service staff: Clinical guidelines for purposeful action when facing elderly with subacute functional decline
  - The GPs: Expedient response re. diagnostic work-up and initiating treatment and rehabilitation
  - Geriatric specialist services (OUH): Provide support as necessary with regard to diagnostics and rehabilitation

## Aims for research project B

- Assess the effect of the entire comprehensive intervention upon
  - Consumption of health care services (hospitalizations, nursing home admissions),
  - coping,
  - self-care,
  - satisfaction among patients and informal caregivers.
- Evaluate the process with regard to
  - user experiences
  - experiences of staff and leadership involved
  - patterns of cooperation between the specialist service and the primary health care system and between home care service and GPs
  - routines
  - competence among staff
- Goal: identify key factors that facilitate and/or hinder collaboration between users and professionals and between professionals within and across the primary and specialist sectors.

# Questions for the Scientific Board

1. As the intervention comprise entire local districts of Oslo, an RCT is not feasible. What research design would you recommend in order to get the best possible effect estimates at an individual level?
2. What primary and secondary endpoint would you recommend, that could be sensitive to the changes possibly induced by this intervention, that are relevant to the patients, and that have good validity?